

A NEW FOOD FISH.

Success Following Efforts to Introduce the Carp in American Waters.

The United States Fish Commissioners last year began their experiment of distributing young carp all over the country for use in bodies of quiet water. The young fish were from ponds near Washington and were originally brought from Germany. To learn why carp is chosen in preference to some of our own valuable food fish, and to ascertain the distribution of some of the spring, a Sun reporter visited New York State Fish Commissioners' office, Blackwell, in Edison Market.

"The European carp is what we are trying to introduce," he said. "It is the most popular fish in Germany, and carp in beer is a favorite dish in Berlin. Over 500,000 pounds of this fish are sold annually in that city; so, you see, its flesh must be of a very fine flavor. Carp grow very rapidly, and are in that way very profitable to the breeder. You know the people away from the seaboard in the Southern States have for their fish only salt codfish, mackerel, and dried herring, and they will gladly welcome the carp."

"Is this fish adapted to Southern waters?" "Yes, it is. But it thrives also—not well, however—in the Northern and Middle States. It is calculated to supply the wants of Southern people in particular. First, because trout, bass, pike, and pickerel, of which we Northerners are fond, are not found in the rivers of the South—it is too warm for them to keep alive in the hot summer; and, secondly, because small ponds and small lakes, the natural habitat of carp, are to be found throughout the Eastern and Southwestern States. Carp delight in still water, and the sportman can't expect much fun in catching them. They are difficult to catch, and are difficult to take in nets. Yet they are the easiest fish in the world to raise, and are most profitable. They are grand feeders, and will eat anything that a hog will eat. Their food is prepared at the least possible expense, when it is raised in ponds, and eating carp is a treat which is not always the case. The carp can be fattened on peat humus, composted blood, and earth, but they will eat on almost any waste material, and other trash, at the bottom of ponds. Food is a small item of expense. It is a hardy fish, prolific fish, and is as good as any fish we have."

"What did the carp first come here?" "The first that was introduced is in the lakes of middle and southern Europe. The Danube, the Rhine, and the Arno, are among them, but did not esteem them very highly. They have been since transferred to lakes in England, France, and Belgium."

"What is their appearance?" "There are three kinds of carp. There are the scale carp, the ear carp, called by the Germans, or 'leberkarpfen,' from Bohemia, which has the most delicious flavor of the three varieties; the leather carp, called by the Germans, 'spitzenkarpfen,' also from Bohemia. The ear carp has a sucker mouth, and lives by suction; it has two rows of scales between the head and dorsal fin, and the scales are olive brown color, slate and yellowish beneath. The mirror carp is so called because it has only three rows of scales, and the scales are yellowish, like oil in water, and it is really beautiful when taken fresh from the water, with its broad bronze scales of mirrors flashing in the light. The ear carp has a very large mouth, and when he feeds for the delivery may receive stock of a gravity of less market value. This has always been regarded as the true carp. All three kinds are very hardy, and you can carry them any distance in a bag or in moss, if you will only keep them moist. Nothing just now is more popular than the ear carp, and it is as carps raising. Every farmer or retired merchant who owns a pond wants to go to producing carp."

"How large do they grow?" "They vary in size from six inches to two and a half feet in length and from a pound to eight pounds in weight. They are raised from April to October through the winter and to April. From Germany comes an account of the largest carp you growth in America. Mr. E. W. Worthen Vice-President, William Kent Secretary, and Mr. J. C. Goss, General Manager, in which he had four little carp a year ago that were then two or three inches long, found them to be four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, twenty-two, twenty-four, and twenty-five inches in length, and the twenty-five-inch fish weighed seven pounds. Now you will see the rapidity of growth, and especially a large fish, when the brook trout are raised to maturity. It is claimed that the hill are being sent to Harrisburg from the marts of the market."

"A carp is a cleaner and franchises for the laying of a free pipe line from the oil region through the State to the seaboard has been proposed by the Legislature. The project is believed by oil men to be in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company."

Underground Rapid Transit Project.

A number of gentlemen met in a downtown office on Friday and organized the Central Tunnel Rail way company. Gen. John Cochran was chosen President. W. E. Worthen Vice-President, William Kent Secretary, and Mr. J. C. Goss, General Manager. In which he had four little carp a year ago that were then two or three inches long, found them to be four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, twenty-two, twenty-four, and twenty-five inches in length, and the twenty-five-inch fish weighed seven pounds. Now you will see the rapidity of growth, and especially a large fish, when the brook trout are raised to maturity. It is claimed that the hill are being sent to Harrisburg from the marts of the market."

"Is it necessary to make elaborate preparation for raising carp?"

"Marsh and waste lands are easily prepared for the culture of carp. An acre devoted to this purpose is the equivalent of an acre of land to a farmer can make. It is a curious fact that farmers assiduously and intelligently cultivate their land with both capital and labor, but they never seem to care for the lands which they own. If they should take the trouble they could sell carp, two, three, and four years old for a profit, and also a good deal of money on account of the price of the ponds."

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